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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/804,034	03/13/2001	James A. Johnston	10004150	8839
24737	7590	05/19/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			NGUYEN, CINDY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2161	
DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/804,034	JOHNSTON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Cindy Nguyen	2171	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 9-11 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 9-11, 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is in response to communication filed 03/16/05.

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 03/16/05 has been entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 3-6, 9, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beizer et al. (US 6240414) (Beizer) in view of Bhansali et al. (US 6006239) (Bhansali).**

Regarding claims 3, 5 and 15-17, Beizer discloses: a system, a process, a device and a computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for automatically updating data elements in a form document being used by a first software application, the system comprising:

A server (31) for storing data elements in a common database (30, fig. 2 and corresponding text, Beizer); and

Client terminals connected to the server via a network (54, 36, 38, 39, 31, 41 fig. 2 and corresponding text, Beizer),

Wherein one or more of the client terminals are configured for accessing the data elements stored in the common database that correspond to the form document being used by the first software application (56, fig. 3A and corresponding text, Beizer);

Wherein the data elements of the database can common to one or more form documents of one or more software applications having access to the common database, further wherein each data element includes at least a field and data in the field (col. 6, lines 45-61, Beizer);

The one or more client terminal further for inputting the accessed data elements into the form document, wherein the first software application is responsive to a first user input for making changes to the accessed data elements within the form document (col. 6, lines 45-61, Beizer),

The one or more client terminals further for monitoring the common database to detect changes to the accessed data elements that may have been changed by the first software application or a second software application of the one or more software applications in response to input of a second user while the form document is being used by the first software application in response to input by the first user (col. 6, lines 18-35, Beizer),

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And the one or more client terminal further for updating the accessed data elements in the form document while the form document is being used by the first software application in response to input of the first user (col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer),

Wherein the updating occurs in accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes, further wherein the monitoring of the common database and the updating of the data elements in the form document comprise: a program segment of the first software application or a software process implemented as a thread executing in a multi-tasking operating system environment (fig. 5 and corresponding text, Beizer),

Wherein the program segment or software process implemented as a thread (a) periodically checks the common database for available updates to the accessed data elements (col. 14, lines 65 to col. 15, lines 14, Beizer); (b) retrieves new records from the common database in response to an availability of updates, the new records from the common database in response to an availability of updates, the new records corresponding to the accessed data elements that have changed (col. 14, lines 11-25, Beizer), and (C) processes the new records corresponding to the changed data elements as an array of new records for updating the accessed data elements in the form document while the form documents is being used by the first software application and the first user (col. 14, lines 34-63, Beizer),

Further wherein processing the array of new records includes adding new records to the array of new records or deleting new records from the array of new

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records in response to one or more comparisons against old records of the form document<sup>1</sup> (change field in workfolders), the old records corresponding to records existing as of a last time the accessed data elements of the form document were updated or as of a last time the accessed data elements of the form document were updated or as of a time the form document was opened, the adding or detecting to the array of new records further being in accordance with the rules corresponding with the rules corresponding to the detected changed (col. 14, lines 11-25, Beizer).

However, Beizer didn't disclose: wherein the rules are based upon (I) a characteristic of the change to the accessed data elements by a second user, wherein the characteristic of the change comprise the accessed data elements having been electronically signed by the second user in which the electronically signed data elements require a password to edit the corresponding data elements. and

(II) a characteristic of the accessed data elements used by the first user wherein the characteristic of the change data elements comprise

(i) a change to a field of the accessed data elements while the form document has remained open by the first user;

(ii) fields of the accessed data elements having been updated from the common database while the form document has remained open by the first user

(iii) fields of the accessed data elements that have not change since the form document was opened by the first user; and

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<sup>1</sup> Workfolders as the array of records can be changed (add, deleted, updated) by users.

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(iv) the accessed data elements having been electronically signed by the first user in which the electronically signed data elements require a password to edit the corresponding data elements. On the other hand, Bhansili discloses (I) a characteristic of the change to the accessed data elements by a second user, wherein the characteristic of the change comprise the accessed data elements having been electronically signed by the second user in which the electronically signed data elements require a password to edit the corresponding data elements (col. 8, lines 1-5, Bhansili); and

(II) a characteristic of the accessed data elements used by the first user wherein the characteristic of the change data elements comprise:

(i) a change to a field of the accessed data elements while the form document has remained open by the first user (col. 7, lines 64-67, Bhansili);

(ii) fields of the accessed data elements having been updated from the common database while the form document has remained open by the first user (col. 8, lines 6-11, Bhansili);

(iii) fields of the accessed data elements that have not change since the form document was opened by the first user (col. 8, lines 6-11, Bhansili); and

(iv) the accessed data elements having been electronically signed by the first user in which the electronically signed data elements require a password to edit the corresponding data elements (col. 8, lines 7 to col. 9, lines 31, Bhansili).

Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the rules for users accessed data elements as above in the system of Beizer as taught by Bhansili. The motivation being to

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enable the system allow multiple users access a spreadsheet stored in a disk file and make independent changes to the spreadsheet, avoid the conflicting changes made by multiple users.

Regarding claim 4, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 3. In addition, Beizer/Bhansili discloses: further comprising: displaying an update status of the accessed data elements in accordance with the updating (col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer); validating present and past changes to the accessed data elements of the form document (the program compares the version, col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer) storing the validated present and past changes to the accessed data elements in the common database (updated master copy, col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer).

Regarding claim 6, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer/Bhansili r discloses: wherein the rules synchronize simultaneous changes made to the accessed data elements (col. 6, line 18-35, Beizer).

Regarding claim 9, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer/Bhansili discloses: wherein the computer readable media is further encodes with processing instructions so that the processor provides update notification to the first user while the form document is being used by the first user (col. 14, line 11-25, Beizer).



Regarding claim 10, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 9. In addition, Beizer/Bhansili discloses: wherein the update notification comprises displaying update history information corresponding to each accessed data element in the form document (col. 14, lines 11-25, Beizer).

**Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beizer et al. (US 6240414) (Beizer) in view of Bhansali et al. (US 6006239) (Bhansali) and further in view of Sugano et al. (U.S 6205478) (Sugano).**

Regarding claim 11, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 10. However, Beizer/Bhansili didn't disclose: wherein the update notification includes displaying the accessed data element in different colors in accordance with the updating. On the other hand, Sugano discloses: wherein the update notification includes displaying the accessed data element in different colors in accordance with the updating (col. 25, lines 19-35, Sugano). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include wherein the update notification includes displaying the accessed data in different colors in accordance with the updating in the combination system of Beizer/Bhansili as taught by Sugano. The motivation being enable the system notifies signal in the form of a color in a window of the corresponding UIO is displayed in a reverse mode or different color from other no-updated (col. 25, lines 19-35, Sugano).

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***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Cindy Nguyen

May 9, 2005

  
**FRANTZ COBY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**